

Serial No.: 10/821,933
Docket No.: 101-1029
Amendment dated January 10, 2006
Reply to the Office Action of November 28, 2005

REMARKS

Introduction

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-15 are in a condition from allowance, and that claims 17-21 and 23-28 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the following remarks, all of the pending claims are allowable over the prior art of record, and reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims 1-28 are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §102

Claims 16 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,912 to Kitajima et al. (hereinafter "Kitajima et al."). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reasons stated below.

Regarding independent claim 16, at item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Kitajima et al. discloses "an image forming apparatus comprising first through third doors (i.e. access doors 6a, 6b, 6c, 100b, Fig. 2, Col. 9, lines 45-65) to access disposables (i.e. toner container 1, drum apparatus 100, Fig. 2) and a fourth door 100a to access a sheet transport unit (i.e. element P, Fig. 6)."

It is respectfully submitted that FIG. 2 of Kitajima et al. illustrates covers 6a, 6b, and 6c that swing open and close to uncover toner container insertion parts 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3 to receive three pieces of a toner container 1, and a front cover 100b that covers an image carrier 10 and a developing device 9. Although not described in the specification of Kitajima et al., reference numeral 100a of FIGS. 2 and 6 appears to refer to paper feed cassettes. As described in Col. 12, lines 26-28 of Kitajima et al., the paper feeding cassettes contain transfer paper (P) in various sizes. Although the transfer paper (P) can be placed in the paper feeding cassettes and transferred from the paper feeding cassettes, the paper feeding cassettes do not provide access to "a sheet transport unit," as recited in independent claim 16 of Applicants' invention. Therefore, Kitajima et al. fails to teach or suggest, among other things, "a fourth door to access

Serial No.: 10/821,933
Docket No.: 101-1029
Amendment dated January 10, 2006
Reply to the Office Action of November 28, 2005

a sheet transport unit,” as recited in independent claim 16 of Applicants’ invention. “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference.” Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as contained in the... claim.” Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ 2d 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). “The elements must be arranged as required by the claim...” In re Bond, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). Accordingly, since Kitajima et al. does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 16, Kitajima et al. can not be properly used to reject claim 16 under a 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 16 is allowable over Kitajima et al., and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Regarding independent claim 22, at item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that Kitajima et al. discloses “first through fourth doors (i.e. see top cover for document scanning, left cover 711, and front cover shown in Fig. 48) can be provided [sic] to open left, top, front, and right sides of the apparatus’s housing.”

It is respectfully submitted that FIG. 48 of Kitajima et al. illustrates a top cover for document scanning and a front cover, but not a left cover. As described in Col. 31, lines 8-12, reference numeral 711 refers to a handhold 711 provided to a toner bank 70 which is attachable to a main body 0 of an image forming apparatus 100. Accordingly, the handhold 711 is not a door. The image forming apparatus illustrated in FIG. 48 of Kitajima et al. is not illustrated as having any additional doors. Furthermore, although FIG. 48 of Kitajima et al. illustrates the top cover for document scanning, the top cover merely exposes a scanning glass on a top surface of the image forming apparatus 100, and does not open a top side of the housing of the image forming apparatus. Therefore, Kitajima et al. fails to teach or suggest, among other things, “first through fourth doors provided to open left, top, front and right sides of a housing of the electrophotographic printer,” as recited in independent claim 22 of Applicants’ invention. Accordingly, since Kitajima et al. does not teach every element as recited in independent claim 22, Kitajima et al. can not be properly used to reject claim 22. See anticipation requirement *supra*. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 22 is allowable over

Serial No.: 10/821,933
Docket No.: 101-1029
Amendment dated January 10, 2006
Reply to the Office Action of November 28, 2005

Kitajima et al., and withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of this claim are earnestly solicited.

Allowed Claims

Claims 1-15 have been allowed.

Dependent claims 17-21 and 23-28 have been objected to as being allowable if rewritten in independent claim form.

Conclusion

There being no other objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in a condition of allowance, and an early action to this effect is courteously solicited.

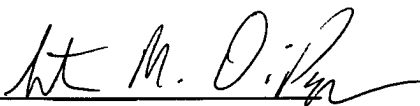
No Fee has been incurred by this Amendment. However, if any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our deposit account number 502827.

Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

STANZIONE & KIM, LLP

Dated: January 10, 2006
919 18th St., NW, Suite 440
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 775-1900
Facsimile: (202) 775-1901

By: 
Steven M. DiPasquo
Registration No. 54,754